



NEWS RELEASE

Office of the United States Attorney
Eastern District of Texas

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DATE: November 17, 2005

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BEAUMONT MAN PLEADS GUILTY TO POSSESSING CHILD PORNOGRAPHY

(Beaumont, Texas) A 52-year-old Beaumont man has pleaded guilty to possessing images of child pornography in the Eastern District of Texas.

In a hearing today, **RANDY CRAIG ROCHELLE** admitted to possessing ten or more images of child pornography before United States District Judge Marcia Crone.

According to information presented in court, the investigation originated from a nationwide FBI undercover online investigation involving chat rooms specializing in the exchange of child pornography. As a result of the investigation, a number of search warrants were executed nationwide over the course of several years after information was obtained from various internet service providers. A federal search warrant was executed at Rochelle's residence on June 30, 2004, by federal and local officers. A federal grand jury indicted Rochelle in May, 2005.

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After his plea of guilty, Rochelle remained released on conditions which include supervision by a third party custodian and remaining at the custodian's residence except for specified visits to his attorney, medical appointments and to attend church services.

Rochelle faces up to ten years in prison, a fine of up to \$250,000, and a term of supervised release for life or any term of years.

The case is being investigated by the Federal Bureau of Investigation and the Beaumont Police Department Computer Forensics Laboratory and prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Robert L. Rawls.

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